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## CH 612 Contemporary Cults

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## Contemporary Cults

### C H 612

Kenneth J. Collins, Professor

#### I. General Purpose:

To help students gain a basic knowledge of the history and doctrines of the major religious cults extant in America so that they may: a) honestly and forthrightly refute their witness and b) effectively present the Gospel to those who have accepted their teachings.

#### II. Specific Objectives:

1. To define cultism and identify its most prominent characteristics.
2. To understand the basic outline of the history and teachings of selected cults by becoming familiar with its literature and teachings.
3. To use these basic tools not only polemically but evangelistically as well in bringing cultists back to Christ and Christian truth.
4. To act intelligently, wisely and scripturally in every situation where we can minister pastorally to persons--especially young people--who are confused or threatened with confusion by the appeal of a cult.

#### III. Requirements and the Basis for Grading

1. Completion of a major research paper on some significant aspect of the history, doctrine, or polity of a contemporary cult. 40% of the grade.
2. Two examinations: a mid-term and a final. 50% of the grade.
3. Class participation and attendance. 10% of the grade.
4. A reading report totalling 1,500 pages which includes the textbooks as well as any collateral reading.

#### IV. Texts:

Tucker, Ruth. *Another Gospel: Alternative Religions and the New Age Movement*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 1989.

McGrath, Alister E. *Understanding Doctrine: What it is and Why it Matters*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 1990

Sire, James W. *Scripture Twisting: Twenty Ways the Cults Misread the Bible*. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1980.

#### V. Topical Outline:

- I. Introduction
- II. The Importance of Doctrine
- III. Definitions: What is a Cult?

- IV. The Significance of Language
- V. Psychological Aspects of Cults
- VI. The History and Doctrine of Various Cults and Religious Movements
  - A. Jehovah's Witnesses
  - B. Christian Science
  - C. Unity School of Christianity
  - D. Mormonism
  - E. Spiritism
  - F. The Theosophical Society
  - G. Swedenborgianism
  - H. The Bahai Faith
  - I. The Nation of Islam (Black Muslims)
  - J. Herbert W. Armstrong
  - K. The Unification Church
  - L. The New Age Movement

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- Decker, Ed, and Ron Carlson. *Fast Facts on False Teachings*. Ventura, California: Harvest House, 1995.
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- Enroth, Ronald. *Evangelizing the Cults: How to Share Jesus with Children, Parents, Neighbors, & Friends Who are Involved in a Cult*. Ann Arbor, Michigan: Servant Publications, 1990.
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- Enroth, Ronald M. *Why Cults Succeed Where The Church Fails*. Elgin, Illinois: Brethren Press, 1985.
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With the exception of the Mithras cult (Ch. V.2), they also seem to have been open to male and female, slave and free, young and old (passim). In that respect they differed from the normal polis festivals, which were usually accessible to men or women only or to the free with the exclusion of slaves; only rarely were they all-encompassing. Beyond these general characteristics, we also need to differentiate between, on the one hand, Mystery cults that were attached to a special location, such as those of Aegina (Ch. IV.1.3), Eleusis (Ch. V.2). Such a catechism kept the interpretation of the Mysteries up-to-date and could incorporate contemporary intellectual fashions, just as Christian theology and rabbinic scholarship have kept the texts of the Bible alive for the faithful by their interpretations. CH HT 612 Contemporary Cults. Steven Tsoukalas. Sire, James. Scripture Twisting: Twenty Ways the Cults Misread the Bible. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1980. Stark, Rodney, and William Sims Bainbridge. The Future of Religion: Secularization, Revival, and Cult Formation. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1985. Tsoukalas, Steven. Children in these cults are programmed to the extent that the cult's leaders understand mind control programming. Many ritual abuse survivors report that other abuser groups with criminal, political, and military agendas infiltrate their familial cults to gain access to these readily-programmable children to program them to fulfill their own agendas, often paying the cult parents large sums of money to do so. Thus, "trauma-based mind control" commonly involves abuse of young children by satanic and "black witchcraft cults." By this definition, the Illuminati, Nazis, and CIA are cults. Many ex Challenger Amplifier: CH612 [R-Player] ID = 2317585 1400x1245. Select picture or schematic to display from thumbnails on the right and click for download. For model CH612, Challenger Amplifier Co.; New York (NY): Picture from service manual. Country: United States of America (USA). Manufacturer / Brand: Challenger Amplifier Co.; New York (NY). Year: 1956 ? Category: Sound/Video Recorder and/or Player.